

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of physically separated non-synchronous compute nodes ~~physically separated from each other~~, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ individual ones of said sets of data packets ~~[[is]]~~ are provided by ~~[[one]]~~ individual ones of said non-synchronous compute nodes and wherein ~~[[each]]~~ individual ones of the plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes ~~comprises a source~~ comprise individual sources of data packets;

inserting said data packets into a software container according to predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said predetermined rules;

protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets according to a grouping criteria; and

outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from at least two of the non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said inserting further includes inserting said data packets into said software container according to individual packet time reference.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said locating further includes locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to individual packet time reference.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said outputting further includes outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of physically separated non-synchronous compute nodes ~~physically separated from each other~~, wherein ~~[[each]] individual ones~~ of said sets of data packets ~~[[is]] are~~ provided by ~~[[one]] individual ones~~ of said non-synchronous compute nodes and wherein ~~[[each]] individual ones~~ of the plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes ~~comprises a source~~ comprise individual sources of data packets;

means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

means for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said predetermined rules;

means for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets according to a grouping criteria; and

means for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from at least two of the non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said means for inserting further includes means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said means for locating further includes means for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said means for outputting further includes means for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

9. (Currently Amended) A recordable type medium having a computer program product for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said recordable type medium comprising:

computer program code for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of physically separated non-synchronous compute nodes ~~physically separated from each other,~~ wherein [[each]] individual ones of said sets of data packets [[is]] are provided by [[one]] individual ones of said non-synchronous compute nodes and wherein [[each]] individual ones of the plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes ~~comprises a source~~ comprise individual sources of data packets;

computer program code for inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

computer program code for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

computer program code for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

computer program code for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from at least two of the non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

10. (Previously Presented) The recordable type medium of Claim 9, wherein said computer program code for inserting further includes computer program code for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

11. (Previously Presented) The recordable type medium of Claim 8, wherein said computer program code for locating further includes computer program code for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

12. (Previously Presented) The recordable type medium of Claim 8, wherein said computer program code for outputting further includes computer program code for outputting

said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.